

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6167

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGA: PINT, SF, PFOR

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON VIENNA TALKS

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE THIS AFTERNOON IN PARLIAMENT ON VIENNA WAS LACKLUSTER AFFAIR WITH VORSTER AND BOTHA MAKING NO SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES IN US-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS RAISED BY OPPOSITION. VORSTER RECOUNTED ESSENTIALS OF TALKS ALONG THE LINE OF HIS AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PRESS CONFERENCE. THREE ASPECTS OF HIS PRESENTATION ARE OF INTEREST:

A. AT OUTSET HE MADE BIG POINT OF A NEW "REALISTIC" CONSERVATIVE SPIRIT" WHICH IS GAINING STRENGTH, AMONG THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THIS WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN INCREASED UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR SOUTH AFRICA. IN THIS CONNECTION, VORSTER REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WARM RECEPTION HE RECEIVED FROM THE YOUNG PRESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION IN VIENNA.

B. VORSTER DEFINED THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN HIS TALKS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AS THE US BELIEF THAT THE AMERICAN NEGRO IS THE SAME AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK. VORSTER CRITICIZED THIS BELIEF AND ASSERTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM IS NOT ETHNIC BUT PROBLEM OF MANY NATIONS IN ONE COUNTRY. HE DID NOT PRESENT BASIC DIFFERENCE AS ONE OF PRINCIPLE OVER APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

C. VORSTER EMPHASIZED THE GROWING COMMUNIST THREAT IN AFRICA AND PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE REFERRED TO HIS TALKS WITH HOUSSOUET-BOIGNY ON THIS ASPECT, ASSERTING THAT THE GROWING CONCERNS OF AFRICAN STATES WOULD INCREASINGLY BRING THEM TOGETHER TO CONFRONT THE DANGER. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN TALKING TO HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS HE FOUND THAT THEY WERE NOT CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT THIS DANGER. HE REITERATED SAG'S DETERMINATION TO STAND UP TO COMMUNISM AT ANY COST.

2. VORSTER GAVE NO HINT OF ANY INDICATION OF CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF FUTURE POLICY OF SAG BUT REPEATED BELIEF THAT CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS BOTH NECESSARY AND PROPER AND WILL CONTINUE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER POK BOTHA WENT ON THE ATTACK, DEMAGOGICALLY REITERATING PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN ITS DESTRUCTION. HE SEIZED ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPLY THAT "FULL PARTICIPATION" IS EQUIVALENT TO ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ILLUSTRATE THAT AGREEING TO AMERICAN "DEMANDS" WOULD MEAN END OF WHITE MAN IN SOUTH AFRICA. BOTHA ALSO CRITICIZED US FOR DOUBLE STANDARD AND POINTED OUT THAT US HAS ITS OWN MORAL PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO MINORITIES, PARTICULARLY "REAL INDIANS." BOTHA WAVE COPY OF MCHENRY BOOK ON US PACIFIC MANDATE AND STATED THAT US WAS ASKING MORE OF SOUTH AFRICA THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO DO ITSELF. BULK OF BOTHA SPEECH WAS ATTACK ON OPPOSITION PARTIES AND DID NOT COVER NEW GROUND.

4. DEBATE CONTRIBUTED LITTLE THAT WAS HELPFUL TO PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING HERE OF IMPORTANT ISSUES INVOLVED. FULLER DETAILS AND ANALYSIS OF SPEECHES WILL BE CABLE MAY 28. BOWDLER

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